

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-02 INR-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 RSC-01 SCA-01 SWF-01 IGA-01 PM-03

L-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-02 SR-02 ORM-01 /059 W

----- 090721

O 021749Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8483

INFO USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 4705

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: HO, SWEL

SUBJECT: HELICOPTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

REF: KILDAY/SOWASH TELECON NOV. 1

1. FOR FOLLOWING REASONS MISSION BELIEVES ONLY U.S.  
MILITARY HELICOPTERS CAN MOUNT EFFECTIVE DISASTER  
RELIEF OPERATION CONTEMPLATED IN HONDURAS:

A. A SAFE AND EFFICIENTLY MOUNTED DISASTER RELIEF  
OPERATION USING HELICOPTERS REQUIRES GOOD COMMUNICATIONS,  
INVOLVING COMPATIBLE GROUND MOUNTED AND AIRBOURNE  
RADIOS, FOR COORDINATION AND CONTROL OF THE OPERATION.  
IN ADDITION TO RADIOS, SUCH A COMMUNICATIONS  
CAPABILITY REQUIRES LANGUAGE QUALIFIED OPERATORS,  
GENERATORS, INSTALLED ANTENNAS AND A WORKING  
KNOWLEDGE OF IN-COUNTRY COMMO ASSETS WITH WHICH  
TO WORK. MISSION PLANNING, CREW BRIEFING, CARGO  
PREPARATION AND LOADING, CREW BILLETING, GROUND  
TRANSPORTATION, LIAISON WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES,  
FUEL AVAILABILITY, MAINTENANCE OF AIRCRAFT AND  
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EQUIPMENT ARE BUT A FEW OF THE OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

WHICH MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN STRUCTURING SUCH AN OPERATION.

B. U.S. MILITARY FORCES HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED CAPABILITY TO EFFICIENTLY AND RAPIDLY FIELD THE TYPE DISASTER RELIEF PACKAGE UNDER CONSIDERATION. FIVE-WEEK EARLIER EXPERIENCE IN HONDURAS DISASTER AREAS HAS GIVEN USSOUTHCOM RELIEF TEAMS FAMILIARITY WITH LOCAL CONDITIONS, TERRAIN, AND LOCAL COUNTERPARTS. THE UH-1H HELICOPTER USED IN EARLIER PHASES OF HONDURAN RELIEF OPERATIONS HAS A LIFT CAPABILITY OF 3000 POUNDS AND ON ONE OCCASION EVACUATED 46 PERSONS, PLUS THE FOUR-MAN CREW IN ONE LIFT. USE OF HELICOPTERS WITH LESS CAPACITY WOULD RESULT IN CONSIDERABLY LESS EFFICIENT AND PROBABLY LONGER OPERATIONS.

C. NEITHER HOST COUNTRY NOR U.S. MILITARY FORCES PRESENTLY IN HONDURAS CAN PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO INSURE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL HELICOPTERS DISPATCHED FOR DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS. THEREFORE, U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WOULD IN ANY CASE BE REQUIRED TO AUGMENT AND SUPPLEMENT ANY COMMERCIAL OPERATION.

2. THERE FOLLOWS A LISTING OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO BE REQUESTED OF SOUTHCOM SHOULD AUTHORIZATION BE FORTHCOMING TO FIELD A TWO-HELICOPTER RELIEF FORCE (ADDITIONALLY, PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT FROM USMILGP, HONDURAS WILL AUGMENT THE FORCE):

A. TWO ARMY UH-1H HELICOPTERS WITH CARGO NETS FOR EXTERNAL LIFT CAPABILITY AND ONE BACK-UP CREW.

B. ONE AF COMBAT CONTROL TEAM WITH JEEP-MOUNTED RADIO AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.

C. THREE COLLINS KWM-2A RADIOS WITH ANTENNAS, ONE 1.5 KW GENERATOR, AND THREE RADIO OPERATORS.

D. TWO HAND-OPERATED FUEL PUMPS FOR REFUELING HELICOPTERS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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E. ONE OPERATIONS NCO AND ONE CLERK.

F. HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY SOUTHCOM

G. TWO HANDHELD WALKIE TALKIES.

H. TWO 16-FT ENGINEER ASSAULT BOATS WITH 40 HP MOTORS. NO OPERATORS REQUIRED.

I. ONE U-21 AIRCRAFT WITH 3-MAN CREW.

3. OUR ESTIMATE OF COST OF ABOVE RELIEF FORCE AND EQUIPMENT FOLLOWS:

A. HELICOPTER FLIGHT TIME (APPROX. 7 HRS PER DAY EACH)	26,971
B. U-21 FLIGHT TIME (APPROX. 5 HRS PER DAY)	7,280
C. TWO C-130 FLIGHTS	7,000
D. PERSONNEL COSTS	7,830
E. CONTINGENCY	919
TOTAL	50,000

OTHER SUPPORT EQUIPMENT WILL BE PROVIDED AT NO COST.  
THE ABOVE ARE OUR BEST COST ESTIMATES BASED ON DATA PROVIDED BY USMILGP, HONDURAS.

4. AT THIS TIME MISSION PROPOSES SIGN SOONEST PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR \$50,000 WITH COPEN TO COVER COSTS THIS OPERATION. SEPARATE UMBRELLA PROJECT AGREEMENT WILL LATER BE SIGNED WITH GOH COVERING REMAINDER OF \$5 MILLION CAPITAL GRANT. WILL PROVIDE FUNDING DATA AS SOON AS \$50,000 PROAG SIGNED.

5. EMBASSY PLANS TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT, WHEN GO-AHEAD RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT OF RETURN OF RELIEF FORCE AND WILL STATE THAT, BY AGREEMENT WITH GOH, FORCE WILL REMAIN FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK. EMBASSY WILL OBTAIN COMMITMENT FROM GOH, BEFORE SIGNING OF PRO-AG, THAT GOH WILL ISSUE PRESS RELEASE AT END OF WEEK TO EFFECT THAT FORCE HAS COMPLETED ITS MISSION AND IS RETURNING TO ITS BASE IN CANAL ZONE.

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6. REQUEST PROMPT NOTIFICATION WHEN EMBASSY MAY APPROACH GOH AND ANNOUNCE RETURN OF RELIEF FORCE.  
SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, HELICOPTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**TAGS:** SWEL, HO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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